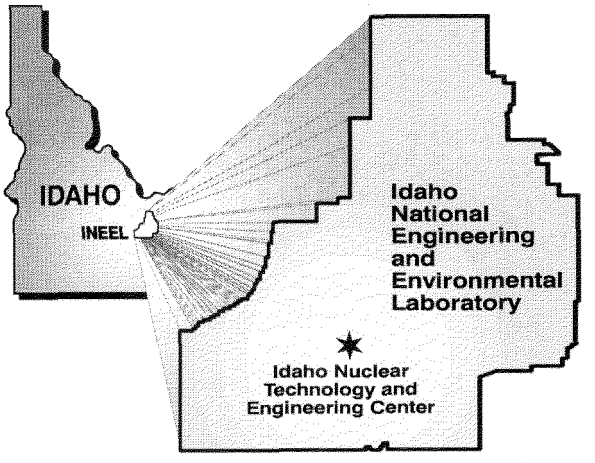
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

Agencies announce changes to cleanup remedy at INEEL facility



The U.S. Department of Energy, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have published an explanation of significant differences (ESD) document outlining changes to cleanup remedies for a facility at the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory.

The Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) document describes changes to the cleanup remedy for four different sites at the Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center. The sites include a transformer yard oil spill area, a capped off-gas line, the site of past pipeline excavation-related spills and a closed injection well.

At the injection well site, additional groundwater monitoring will take place to track concentrations of iodine-129 at different depths in three monitoring wells. The ESD establishes a threshold (action level) for iodine-129 of 5 picocuries per liter for the three monitoring wells. A picocurie is one trillionth of a curie. A curie is a measure of the amount of radiation in a given amount of material, and is about the amount of radioactivity in one gram of radium.

If monitoring shows concentrations of iodine-129 are less than the action level, then groundwater monitoring will continue as described in the long-term monitoring plan.

If concentrations in the three wells exceed the action level, additional sampling of other monitoring wells will be performed, and new monitoring wells may be installed.

A contingent remedy will be required if the additional monitoring indicates the remediation goals won't be met by 2095.

With the additional information collected since the 1999 record of decision, the agencies determined that the oil spill, underground lines and excavation areas do not need further action to be protective of human health and the environment. The sites will no longer be deferred until the overall investigation is complete.

Detailed information is available in the Administrative Record file for Operable Unit 3-13. The Administrative Record is located at the DOE Reading Room of the INEEL Technical Library in Idaho Falls. Copies can be found at Albertsons Library at Boise State University. The Administrative Record can be accessed on the Internet at *http://ar.inel.gov.* More information on the Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center can be found in a fact sheet available online at: *http://cleanup.inel.gov.*

The Idaho Completion Project is focused on reducing risk and completing the majority of remaining cleanup work from past INEEL missions by 2012. The project is managed by Bechtel BWXT Idaho for the U.S. Department of Energy.

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